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NEWS RELEASE

EPA Announces Human Health Research Strategy to Address Needs for Science

Dr. Paul Gilman, EPA Assistant Administrator for Research and Development and EPA Science Advisor, announced today the release of a long-term plan for research to further the Agency's mission to protect public health. The *Human Health Research Strategy* identifies and prioritizes the research that will be conducted over the next five to 10 years to improve the scientific foundation for EPA's human health risk assessments and to evaluate risk management decisions.

The plan provides a strategic approach to address research needs in several recent initiatives by the EPA's Office of Research and Development: computational toxicology, children's health, aging, asthma and the cumulative risk of exposure to multiple environmental contaminants.

"This plan provides a roadmap for EPA scientists to follow over the next decade to improve the science needed by decision makers to protect the public health and environment," said Gilman. "Explorers into unknown territory use global positioning systems or GPS to keep them on course. This strategy will be our guide to exploring the unknowns in environmental science," he said.

The plan focuses on improving the integration of environmental science disciplines at EPA and improving the links in the various fields of science to understand how we are exposed to environmental contaminants, what dose is needed to obtain an adverse health effect and what health effects occur from exposure.

"Building stronger connections between, exposure, dose, and effect research, will improve our ability to make sound human health risk assessments," Gilman said.

The *Human Health Research Strategy* emphasizes the need for EPA to partner with other local, state, Tribal and federal organizations, public health organizations, and industry to conduct human health research.

The *Human Health Research Strategy* is posted on EPA's Web page at <http://www.epa.gov/ord/htm/researchstrategies.htm>. A limited number of print copies are available from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP). To obtain copies, please contact NSCEP at 1-800-490-9198 and reference EPA document number 600/R-02/050.

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